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Control: 17433
Rec'd: June 24, 1959
8:40 a.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/RR
REVIEWED BY J.M. Razi DATE 5/6/82

FROM: Benghazi

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 659, June 24, 8 a.m.

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 659; REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON 75, PARIS 57, RABAT 21, TRIPOLI 603.

TRIPOLI ALSO PASS 7272 ABW PARIS FOR WEST

In conversation Prime Minister Kubar June 22, he placed at head list of problems he wished discuss with me resumption negotiations re review financial arrangements under base agreements. Kubar said negotiations already lasted long time and their prolongation places GOL in increasingly difficult position republic and press. Prime Minister recalled last year's speech from throne had mentioned review base agreement, called attention to political pressures coming parliamentary elections and indicated public expectancy high. Kubar remark on quieter, friendlier tone press re Americans in recent weeks and noted general restraint Libyan Parliament and press our policies and position Libya. Prime Minister said that he and his Cabinet had exerted strong efforts achieve this atmosphere which he believes propitious for resumption negotiations. He concluded by inquiring if I had anything new to report.

In reply recalled that in our last conversation this matter had informed him our decision give appreciable amount unconditional aid so that GOL might confront immediate budget problems and that at same time had requested suspension financial talks until USG could study matter further. Informed Kubar that I know Libyan position as set forth March 18 note is under active and serious study by USG and that I hoped instructions would be forthcoming shortly after July 1. Assured him would report our conversation to USG including his growing impatience. To this Kubar indicated his thanks and made no further comment.

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Comment: Both previous press and parliamentary criticism and present surcease from it may well be result GOL action. This, however, should not vitiate Prime Minister's point that now propitious time for negotiation; atmosphere is calmer in Libya and in this area as a whole than it has been for long time. In future we may regret it if we fail take advantage present detente, particularly in view fact our bargaining position likely deteriorate further if GOL is assured large oil revenues. Believe political pressures on Kubar will be rising at accelerated rate as speech from throne and parliamentary elections draw near. He will feel he must do something satisfy public expectations. Not unlikely he will attempt arrange flying trip to Washington to reopen negotiations unless we are more forthcoming in next few weeks.

In brief, believe this problem we must face squarely before year out and the sooner the better (see Tripoli's 683 to Department). Would appreciate instructions.

NORLAND

LMS/VF/8

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